## Filing Date: March 8, 2001 Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING RENTING AND PURCHASING RELATIONSHIPS

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

(Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
 receiving at a computer a plurality of property profiles over a computer network at a
transaction center from a plurality of responsible parties, a responsible party of the plurality of
responsible parties being responsible for disposition of a property associated with a property
profile of the plurality of property profiles;

receiving a transaction request from a requesting party over the computer network at the transaction center, the transaction request including property information regarding at least one desired property aspect, the requesting party being a prospective renter, and the receiving of the transaction request including providing a sequence of maps to prompt the requesting party to select at least one desired geographical location;

matching the transaction request with the plurality of property profiles in accordance with the property information; and

providing the transaction request from the transaction center to a subset of the plurality of responsible parties having a matched property profile.

- (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the transaction request is achieved anonymously such that an identity of the requesting party is hidden from the responsible party.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a responsible party of the
  plurality of responsible parties comprises at least one of a property owner, a property manager,
  or a leasing manager.
- (Canceled)

- (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising: providing [[an]] a rental offer received from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties to the requesting party.
- (Canceled)
- (Canceled)
- (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein providing the offer comprises: providing a ranking based on a plurality of criteria.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: providing an acceptance received from the requesting party to at least one of the plurality of responsible parties.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
   providing a property visit request received from the requesting party to at least one of the
   plurality of responsible parties; and

providing a property visit confirmation from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties to the requesting party.

- 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: providing an anonymous message received from the requesting party to at least one of the plurality of responsible parties.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
   receiving a lease execution notification from at least one of the plurality of responsible
   parties.

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- 13. (Canceled)
- 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: billing a responsible party of the plurality of responsible parties a success fee.
- 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving a request for a promotional reward from the requesting party.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: issuing a promotional reward to the requesting party.
- 17. (Canceled)
- 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the plurality of property profiles comprises:

receiving at least one unit information.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the plurality of property profiles comprises:

receiving a billing information.

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20. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions which when executed by a processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving at the machine a plurality of property profiles over a computer network at a transaction center from a plurality of responsible parties, a responsible party of the plurality of responsible parties being responsible for disposition of a property associated with a selected property profile of the plurality of property profiles;

receiving a transaction request from a requesting party over the computer network at the transaction center, the transaction request including property information regarding at least one desired property aspect, the requesting party being a prospective renter, and the receiving of the transaction request including providing a sequence of maps to prompt the requesting party to select at least one desired geographical location;

matching the transaction request with the plurality of property profiles in accordance with the property information; and

providing the transaction request from the transaction center to a subset of the plurality of responsible parties having a matched property profile.

- 21. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 wherein providing the transaction request is achieved anonymously such that an identity of the requesting party is hidden from the plurality of responsible parties.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

providing an offer received from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties to the requesting party.

23. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein providing the offer comprises:

providing a ranking based on a plurality of criteria.

(Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon 24 further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

providing an acceptance received from the requesting party to one of the plurality of responsible parties.

(Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon 25. further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

providing a property inspection request received from the requesting party to one of the plurality of responsible parties; and

providing a property inspection confirmation from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties to the requesting party.

(Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon 26. further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

providing an anonymous message received from the requesting party to one of the plurality of responsible parties.

(Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon 27. further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving a lease execution notification from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties.

## 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

providing at least one of the plurality of responsible parties a success fee billed confirmation message.

30. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 20 having stored thereon further instructions which when executed by the processor cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving a request for a promotional reward from the requesting party.

- 31. (Canceled)
- 32. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 20 wherein receiving at least one property profile comprises:

receiving at least one unit information.

33. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 20 wherein receiving at least one property profile comprises:

receiving a billing information.

- (Currently Amended) A computer connected to a computer network comprising:
   a bus:
  - a storage device coupled to the bus; and
- a processor coupled to the bus, the processor to execute software to cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
- (i) receiving a plurality of property profiles over a computer network at a transaction center from a plurality of responsible parties, a responsible party of the plurality of responsible parties being responsible for disposition of a property associated with a selected property profile of the plurality of property profiles,
- (ii) receiving a transaction request from a requesting party over the computer network at the transaction center, the transaction request including property information regarding at least one desired property aspect, the requesting party being a prospective renter, and the receiving of the transaction request including providing a sequence of maps to prompt the requesting party to select at least one desired geographical location.
- (iii) matching the transaction request with the plurality of property profiles in accordance with the property information,
- (iv) providing the transaction request from the transaction center to a subset of the plurality of the responsible parties having a matched property profile, and
- $\label{eq:continuous} \mbox{(v)} \qquad \mbox{providing an offer received from the subset of the plurality of responsible}$  parties to the requesting party.
- 35. (Original) The computer of claim 34 wherein the matching is performed by a matching engine.
- 36. (Original) The computer of claim 35 wherein the matching engine is comprised of a plurality of software instructions.

- (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein the processor further 37. comprises software that includes instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
- providing an acceptance received from the requesting party to one of the plurality of responsible parties.
- (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein the processor further 38. comprises software that includes instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
- providing a property inspection request received from the requesting party to one of the plurality of responsible parties; and
- providing a property inspection confirmation from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties to the requesting party.
- (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein the processor further 39. comprises software that includes instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
- providing an anonymous message received from the requesting party to one of the plurality of responsible parties.
- (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein the processor further 40. comprises software that includes instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
- receiving a lease execution notification from at least one of the plurality of responsible parties.
- 41. (Canceled)

- (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein the processor further 42. comprises software that includes instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
- providing at least one of the plurality of responsible parties a success fee billed confirmation message.
- (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein the processor further 43 comprises software includes instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:
  - receiving a request for a promotional reward from the requesting party.
- 44. (Canceled)
- (Original) The computer of claim 34 wherein receiving at least one property profile 45. comprises:

receiving at least one unit information.

(Original) The computer of claim 34 wherein receiving at least one property profile 46. comprises:

receiving a billing information.

(Previously Presented) The computer of claim 34 wherein: 47.

the computer network is the Internet; and

the software enables communications with each of the plurality of responsible parties and the requesting party via the Internet.